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1962/10/27

R. J. Wick
for comment
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[REDACTED]
Draft - October 27, 1962

.. We do not propose to invade Cuba, or to encourage others to invade Cuba, so long as its government does not harbor offensive weapons as we have defined them; so long as the government of Cuba does not engage in direct or indirect aggression as defined by the United Nations Charter and the resolutions of the Organization of American States; so long as the government of Cuba honors its international agreements.

I am prepared to lift the blockade of Cuba when we have verified that the Soviet technicians and offensive delivery vehicles, including bombers and weapons, have left Cuba.

The question of Turkish missiles is not negotiable in the present context. Turkey is a responsible ally and an independent state. The missiles in Turkey are there as a matter of NATO decision. The armament of NATO can only be considered in the context of general discussions of armaments and arms control. The possibility of a non-aggression agreement between the NATO and Warsaw Pact states might form part of the agenda for future negotiation.

I would

[illegible]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE /A/CDC/MR.

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I would emphasize that, if we are to engage in serious discussions and quickly end this crisis, it is essential that work be underway on the dismantling and removal of the missile sites in Cuba and the disassembly and removal of the bombers.

We are prepared to discuss positive steps towards the easing of tensions and practical movements towards peace, at any appropriate level, as soon as the Cuban crisis has been cleared away; and if there is, out of preliminary discussions, assurance that progress can be made on other issues, I am prepared to meet you at a summit session.

Let me add a word. ~~/~~ I deeply believe that if we grasp this moment, end the Cuban crisis promptly ~~and cleanly~~, you and I can move with our colleagues in other nations on to a road of collaboration in removing the great dangers to the peace. This opportunity could, however, be lost to us ~~and the~~ ~~word~~ if ~~that~~ ^{the} question of offensive weapons, installations, and delivery vehicles in Cuba is not soon settled.